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EDWARD DRINKER COPE, the Editor-in-Chief and sole proprietor of this journal, died on Monday morning, April 12, 1897, shortly before 8 o'clock.

What this simple announcement means to the world of science we shall only begin to appreciate when the notices of his life in the scientific journals of Europe reach us, for highly as he was honored by some of the leaders of scientific thought in this country there is not so general an appreciation here as abroad of the services he has rendered to Natural History.

Those who were nearest to him, and who witnessed the growth of his own knowledge of a particular subject from the few isolated facts, with which his study began, to the complete development of his monographs, in which the object stood out from the rest of the productions of Nature, can best understand what qualities of the mind raised him to the pre-eminence which he honestly and easily won. These were quick, and accurate powers of observation and discrimination, a marvelous memory embracing the minutest details of what had been done in the same direction before, and tireless perseverance and industry amounting to a complete forgetfulness of self and neglect of mere personal comfort when in quest of accurate data. But the great world of readers and workers did not need this personal knowledge to judge of how he worked. It is scarcely credible that the monument which he has unconsciously reared to himself by his unceasing additions to human knowledge has been created in his short lifetime of fifty-six years, and the larger part of it in the face of difficulties which alone would have crushed any other man.

Nor was "species making" his only or even his chief contribution to the world's knowledge. With his power of instantaneously extracting from the well-filled treasury of his mind that group of facts which he needed, and his systematic inspection of the salient characters of an object, it was as easy for him to designate what was new to science in a mass of material just unpacked as for the ordinary naturalist to indicate the parts which were new to himself. In Cope's case the two were usually synonymous.

But his great and crowning faculty was that of recognizing the significance of each of his brilliant discoveries to the whole structure of science. His keenness in this, the highest manifestation of thought, was incomparable; and though his generalizations were often startling, they were never made rashly, and they have usually secured the acceptance of a steadily increasing body of scientific men.

Nor was it alone in the natural or biological sciences that he left the impress of his thought. Psychical phenomena, which are as far as possible removed from zoology and paleontology, enlisted a large part of his interest. Singularly enough for one who dealt so much in the concrete, his tendency was strongly towards idealism and against materialism.

He possessed definite views on all subjects, from metaphysics to politics, and was hopeful and optimistic in all. No amount of discouragement would prevent him from striving and hoping. He always saw a gleam of promise ahead that things would change, no matter how hopeless they seemed to others.

His power of dissociating his personal feelings from his actions on a given subject was so remarkable as to be almost unique.

This ethical side of his character was not generally understood, though his principles were always frankly announced and rigorously followed. No amount of personal liking or repugnance would change his vote on a question which ought to be decided by the qualifications of an individual or the propriety of a course of action, the sole points considered by him were fitness and justice.

Their most devoted friends were not fairer in estimating the true value of those whom Cope considered his bitterest opponents than he. His views and convictions on all subjects were impersonal, and were raised far above the malarial atmosphere of jealousy and malice.

These lines are traced by one who has been for twenty-five years his intimate friend, as a spontaneous tribute to a great master in science at the moment of his death, and may strike a responsive chord in the hearts of those who enjoyed the privilege of close acquaintance with Edward Drinker Cope.

April 12, 1897.

PERSIFOR FRAZER.